



## A Note From the President

Welcome to the “Little Trooper.” This is the annual political edition of the *Michigan Trooper* magazine. Unlike regular editions, which are sent to numerous individuals including legislators, other organizations, retirees, and some members of the general public, this edition is distributed only to active members of the Association.

The purpose of the political edition is to provide Executive Board candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves to the membership and discuss their qualifications and goals for the office or seat they are seeking.

It is always pleasing to see the quality of the candidates that have accepted nominations to the Association Executive Board as they will have an impact on the Association, its membership, and even the Department for years to come.

Even though candidates are running unopposed, your vote is still important in these races. The larger number of votes a candidate receives, the greater the mandate they have to act confidently on behalf of their constituents.

Thank you for your time and participation in the electoral process for your Association’s Executive Board.

– Nate Johnson, President

## Candidates Running for Office 2022 MSPTA Executive Board

<b>President</b>	
Tpr. Nate Johnson*	2
<b>1st District Representative</b>	
Tpr. Andrew Warner*	3
<b>3rd District Representative</b>	
Tpr. Jeremy Sloan*	3
<b>5th District Representative</b>	
Tpr. Nicholas Pollich*	3
Tpr. Scott Wehler	3
<b>7th District Representative</b>	
Tpr. Richard Pearson*	4
<b>Region 1 Uniform Sergeant Representative</b>	
Sgt. Kelly Linebaugh*	4
<b>Region 1 D/Sergeant Representative</b>	
D/Sgt. Adam Starkweather*	4
<b>Candidate Endorsements</b>	4-5

*\*Incumbent candidate, running unopposed.*

**YOUR VOTE  
IS YOUR VOICE....  
BE HEARD.** 

## Dates to Remember

Your individual ballot will be sent via the online voting function of the website/mobile app on Friday, November 11, 2021.

Ballots must be cast by midnight on Friday, November 26, 2021.

Results will be posted on the MSPTA website on Monday, November 29, 2021.



**“Today in America unions have a secure place in our industrial life. Only a handful of reactionaries harbor the ugly thought of breaking unions and depriving working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.**

**I have no use for those – regardless of their political party – who hold some vain and foolish dream of spinning the clock back to days when organized labor was huddled, almost as a helpless mass.**

**Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.”**

*– Dwight D. Eisenhower*

## Presidential Candidate

### Trooper Nathan Johnson\*



I write this in appreciation to the membership for the opportunity to continue serving in the role as Association President. From day one I have not taken your vote of confidence for granted and over the last 8 years have continuously looked for opportunities to promote our members and advance our influence and position as a leader among labor organizations. I have made sure the voice of our Troopers and Sergeants is heard by securing leadership roles with MCOLES, MAPO, NTC and COPS TRUST. Maintaining a strong influence with the legislative and executive branches of government has remained a priority where our strategies and relationships have served us well. This will be a critical area in the coming year with the governor's election and term limits of so many of our legislative friends in the House and Senate. There is no automatic love or out pouring of funding for the State Police. This is a constant front for the MSPTA and I will continue to work to avoid returning to the years of no recruit schools, layoffs and mileage restrictions.

In reflecting on the last two years of my tenure and some of the accomplishments of this organization:

The MSPTA has continued to grow MSTAF, our 510(c)(3) charitable arm, providing significant funding for our Trooper families facing unforeseen loss and financial hardships.

The MSPTA took the lead being one of the few law enforcement agencies in the nation to provide full criminal and civil defense for our members. We recruited some of the best attorneys in Michigan to be part of the MSPTA legal team and kept tens of thousands of dollars in MSPTA members' pockets, all without raising dues.

This October I was promoted in labor leadership, being elected from the North Region Coordinator to the #2 seat of the National Troopers Coalition. (All MSPTA members are also NTC members.) This new position resulted from the NTC recognizing the value of MSPTA's current practice of legislative and lobbying efforts to promote this career while also protecting law enforcement from radical and unnecessary national police reform.

In closing, I thank you for your vote of confidence and would like to encourage everyone to come to a quarterly or district meeting and hear what the MSPTA does for its members that can't always be put in writing. It's also the voice of the membership at these meetings that helps identify specific concerns like the discipline process or direction of the department that I am able to deliver unfiltered to MSP leadership. There is no super union that can fix every problem or deliver on every demand but in the grand scheme of things as a second-generation Trooper, I take extreme pride in the accomplishments of this organization. Be safe! ■



## 1st District Trooper Candidate

### Trooper Andrew Warner\*



*This candidate did not submit an article for publication. ■*

## 3rd District Trooper Candidate

### Trooper Jeremy Sloan\*



*This candidate did not submit an article for publication. ■*

## 5th District Trooper Candidates

### Trooper Nicholas Pollich\*



Membership,

Those of you who do not know me I am Nick Pollich and I am your current 5th district representative for the MSPTA. I am writing this letter seeking re-election as your 5th District Representative on the MSPTA Executive Board. I joined the department in 2008 at the Battle Creek Post.

I was elected as the Paw Paw post rep in 2011 when I transferred during the reorganization of the department. In 2017 while working out of District Head Quarters the membership elected me as the 5th District Representative and you have all trusted me in this position. I can not thank you all enough for trusting me to continue to keep your best interest in mind. This is a great responsibility that I do not take lightly and with your continued support I will strive to better our district's relationship with command staff. I will also continue my efforts in engaging younger members in association matters and stress the importance of a strong union.

Over the past 4 years as your District Representative I have had the responsibility of chairing the transfer review board, serving on the physical fitness committee, and the uniform committee. These positions have allowed me to represent the entire membership throughout the entire state and not just our district. I do not take my position as your district rep lightly and if you will continue supporting me as your Representative I will continue to open channels of communication within our district with command staff and the membership. Even though the membership and command may not always see eye to eye, I feel it is important to have a steady flow of communication. This flow of communication allows us the ability to have our opinions as troopers heard and understood which will continue to improve our working conditions and wages over time.

Your support is important to me so I can continue working as your district discipline advocate and make sure any discipline is fair and impartial. I have handled over 20 discipline conferences in and outside of our district over the past 4 years. These have all turned out positive for our members. I feel a good working relationship with our command staff have been key in all of these outcomes. I have also handled critical incidents at each of our posts in the 5th district several times during my tenure and have had excellent outcomes with each situation.

*Concluded next column ⇨*

### Trooper Scott Wehler



*This candidate did not submit an article for publication. ■*

With your continued support I will do my best to consistently represent you all as we move forward as an organization. I will make sure your issues are addressed properly and your questions are answered in a timely manner. I humbly ask for your vote of support to continue my duties as your 5th District MSPTA Representative. ■

Respectfully,  
Nick Pollich

## 7th District Trooper Candidate

### Trooper Richard Pearson\*



*This candidate did not submit an article for publication. ■*



## Region 1 Uniform Sergeant Candidate

### Sergeant Kelly Linebaugh\*



*This candidate did not submit an article for publication. ■*

## Region 1 Detective/Sergeant Candidate

### D/Sergeant Adam Starkweather\*



I would like to take this time to thank the Region 1 Detective Sergeants and Region 1 Specialist Sergeants for your continued support. I am trying to keep you informed, and will continue to do so. As always do not hesitate to call or get in touch with me with your questions or concerns. ■

## Candidate Endorsements

### Tpr. Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative

I support Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative. Nick has spent years as a post rep and district rep with extensive knowledge of union matters. He has built relationships within the union and with command staff reasoning through contract and discipline issues. Nick has always answered his phone and promptly given answers for union related questions. ■

*Trooper Thomas Coles, Paw Paw Post*

### Tpr. Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative

I would like to show my support for Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative. Nick does a good job with communicating with members and keeping everybody informed. He has a common sense approach which allows him to work through issues that arise including discipline matters and contract issues. Please join me in supporting Nick for this position. ■

*D/Sgt. Adam Starkweather, SWET*

### Tpr. Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative

I am writing to endorse Tpr. Nick Pollich as the Fifth District Representative. Since 2018 Nick has served as the Fifth District Representative. Prior to his current position, he served as the Paw Paw Post Representative beginning in 2011 until being elected to his current position within the MSPTA. Nick always puts the interest of the troopers first and has demonstrated his knowledge of the contract throughout his time as a representative. He has built a quality relationship with command staff throughout the department and understands the politics that take place between the MSPTA and command in order to benefit the members of the MSPTA. Along with representing numerous MSPTA members over the past ten years, Nick also takes the initiative to engage younger members to be more involved within the MSPTA. He encourages younger members to become familiar with the contract and routinely stresses the importance of doing so. Nick also currently serves on the Transfer Review Board, Physical Fitness Committee, and the Uniform Committee. If you were to speak with Nick regarding the MSPTA, it is evident that he is passionate about his role as a representative and a member of the Executive Board. It is this passion for the MSPTA that sets Nick apart from most others. So, I would ask that you please join me in supporting Tpr. Nick Pollich for his re-election to his current position on the Executive Board as the Fifth District Representative. Thank you. ■

*D/Tpr. Ryan Coon, SWET*

## Candidate Endorsements (continued)

### Tpr. Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative

I was honored when Tpr. Nick Pollich asked me to write him a letter of support toward his reelection to the MSPTA Fifth District Representative. At first, I didn't know if I could or should write a letter of support since I was recently promoted to first lieutenant at the Paw Paw Post. However, after reflection, because I believe in the work he is doing, I decided I should and would do it. I have known Nick since he was put on my squad when I was a road sergeant five years ago. Right away I noticed Nick clearly demonstrates a willingness to take care of people. Once Nick became the district rep, I saw this firsthand when working through association and post issues. Now that I am on the other side of the house, I am very pleased to see that our relationship continues in a way to both support the MSPTA members and the department as a whole. Every time I work with Nick on a post related issue, it is very evident that he cares for post members and works hard to make sure we, as a department, are doing right by them. Please consider offering your support to Nick Pollich for fifth district rep. ■

*F/Lt. Scott Ernstes, Paw Paw Post*

### Tpr. Nick Pollich for 5th District Representative

I am fully endorsing Tpr. Nicholas Pollich for Fifth District Representative because he has always put the troopers first. After leaving the Niles Post I had the privilege to work with Tpr. Pollich on the Fifth District Hometown Security Team. Tpr. Pollich has stood in my corner in the past and has provided me with great advice. He has proven to be a leader, hardworking, and he has represented the MSPTA to the highest standard. His extensive knowledge of the contract and selfless dedication to the union makes him extremely reliable. Tpr. Pollich has always been available for questions and is consistently fighting for the members in our department. Join me in voting for Tpr. Nicholas Pollich for his re-election as the Fifth District Representative. ■

*Sgt. Robert Lindsay, Marshall Post*



### Editorial Policy

The *Michigan Trooper* is the official publication of the Michigan State Police Troopers Association. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the MSPTA. Articles represent the opinions of the author. Any similarity between the people and places in the fiction and semi-fiction of articles printed, and real people and places is purely coincidental.

All rights in letters to the *Michigan Trooper* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes; and as subject to the *Michigan Trooper's* unrestricted right to edit and to comment editorially. No responsibilities can be assumed for unsolicited materials.

Letters or articles must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address. Due to legal requirements and the potential financial liability for libel imposed upon the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, the Editor of the *Michigan Trooper* reserves the absolute right to select, edit, and reject all articles for publication. When an article is selected for publication, writers are assured of freedom of expression within necessary limits of good taste, available space, and legal requirements.

The *Michigan Trooper* is published by the Michigan State Police Troopers Association.

For information about securing permission to reprint *Michigan Trooper* articles, please address inquiries to the Editor. ■